An ACCOUNT *of the Occaſion and Manner of Erecting the* Hoſpital *at* Lanesborough Houſe, *near* Hyde-Park-Corner. *Publiſhed by* Order *of the General* Board *of* GOVERNOURS *there,* Wedneſday, February *the 6th,* 1733.

SEVERAL well-diſpoſed Perſons having long obſerved that there was no Hoſpital within the Liberty of *Weſtminſter*, for the Relief of the many poor, ſick and lame Objects that offerd, and that ſuch an Hoſpital was abſolutely neceſſary in ſo large and populous a City; thoſe in *London* being by no Means ſufficient: They therefore agreed to ſet on Foot a Subſcription for an *Infirmary* there, to relieve ſuch poor, ſick and lame Perſons as ſhould appear to the Subſcribers to be proper Objects of Charity.

Accordingly in the Year 1719 a Subſcription was opened, and a Houſe was taken and fitted up in *Petty France*, which being found to be too ſmall, they in the Year 1724, removed to *Chapel-Street*, where they have ever ſince continued.

In both theſe Places great Numbers have been cured, as appears from their printed Accounts, under the Care, and by the Charitable Aſſiſtance of Dr. *Alexander Stuart*, Phyſician to Her Majeſty, Dr. *George Lewis Teiſſier*, Phyſician to His Majeſty's Houſhold, and Dr. *William Waſey*, as Phyſicians; and *Ambroſe Dickins*, and *Claudius Amyand*, Eſqs. Serjeant Surgeons to His Majeſty, and *William Cheſelden*, Eſq; Surgeon to Her Majeſty, as principal Surgeons, and Mr. *James Wilkie* as Surgeon in Ordinary.

Theſe Gentlemen were all Subſcribers to this Charity; and to their concurring Labours the Society have always hitherto moſt thankfully acknowledged the Preſervation of the Lives of their Patients, under God, to be owing.

About two Years ſince the Stock of the Society encreaſing beyond Expectation, and their Houſe being ſtill too ſmall, as well as old and ruinous, it became neceſſary to remove; and therefore Advertiſments were publiſh'd by Order of the Board for ſeveral Weeks together, enquiring after a large and ſubſtantial Building, in an airy Situation, within the City, or Liberty of *Weſtminſter*.

At Length ſome Houſes of Mr. *Green*'s in and about *Caſtle-Lane*, in the lower Part of *Weſtminſter*, and *Lanesborough* Houſe, in the higher Part of it, being propos'd to the general Board, a Queſtion aroſe which ſhould be preferr'd.

The Majority were for the Former; and they accordingly voted that Mr. *Green*'s Houſes were convenient for them, and that *Lanesborough* Houſe was not ſo; and they appointed a Committee finally to agree with Mr. *Green*.

The Minority, tho' over ruled, were not convinced.

Among the Minority were all the above-named Phyſicians and Surgeons, together with ſeveral who had been concern'd in the Charity from its firſt Eſtabliſhment

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and ſome who had laid the Foundation of it ſeveral Years before, beſides many others who had been very active and uſeful Inſtruments in carrying it on ſince.

All theſe (whoſe Subſcriptions at *Lady-Day* laſt, with thoſe of their Friends, brought in by them, have been computed to amount to above the Half of the Whole) were of Opinion that there was no Place about this Town more proper for their Purpoſe than *Lanesborough* Houſe.

An Hoſpital there, on Account of its Neighbourhood, could give no Offence to any one; the Building was large and ſtrong, and many of the Rooms were ſo contriv'd, as if they had been built for the Uſes to which they were now to be apply'd; it was near enough to the Town to be ſupply'd with all the Neceſſaries that would be wanting, ſo near that the Governours might attend without Inconveniency, and yet far enough for the Patients to have the Benefit of a Country Air, which, in the general Opinion of the Phyſicians, would be more effectual than Phyſick in the Cure of many Diſtempers, eſpecially ſuch as moſtly affect the Poor who live in cloſe and confin'd Places within theſe great Cities.

For theſe Reaſons they reſolved to take *Lanesborough* Houſe, and if poſſible to perſwade the Majority to join with them.

But finding at a ſubſequent general Board, that their Brethren were abſolutely determin'd againſt it, and that it was in vain to hope for their Concurrence: They, the Minority, agreed that they ought not to let ſlip ſo advantageous an Opportunity of removing, and therefore they compleated their Agreement at 60 *l.* a Year, reſolving to carry on the ſame Charity there.

Thereupon the Phyſicians and Surgeons acquainted the Board that *Lanesborough* Houſe was taken; that they were reſolv'd to carry their Charity and Attendance thither; that they could not attend both, but they would attend in *Chapel-Street* 'till other Phyſicians and Surgeons ſhould be provided; and if at any Time their Aſſiſtance ſhould be wanted, they would be ready to attend when deſir'd.

Thus began the Separation which has prov'd of great Service to the Charity; for now, by the Zeal and Emulation of both Societies, they will probably be able to entertain above four Times the Number of Patients they have hitherto done.

Immediately after this, the Society in *Chapel-Street* choſe other Phyſicians and Surgeons, and the Gentlemen at *Lanesborough* Houſe ſet themſelves vigorouſly to work to lay the Foundation of their new Hoſpital.

For that Purpoſe they met almoſt every Evening, and procured not only the By-Laws of all the Hoſpitals about the Town, but alſo the By-Laws of ſeveral Hoſpitals in foreign Parts, out of which to collect ſuch Rules and Orders as ſhould beſt ſuit their Occaſions; and having well weighed and conſider'd the Undertaking, they form'd themſelves into a regular Society on *Friday* the 19th of *October*, 1733.

Since that Time they have collected and digeſted a regular Body of Laws for the Government of themſelves, their Servants, and their Patients, extracted for the moſt Part from the ſeveral By-Laws that have been laid before them.

And as they had Reaſon to apprehend that an Inconveniency might ariſe by permitting ſmall Subſcribers to be Governours; no Man is qualify'd to be a Governour there that does not contribute 5 *l.* a Year; and even then he muſt be propos'd a Fortnight before he can be choſen, which is at laſt done by a Ballot.

Such is their Caution in the Choice of their Governours, of whom nevertheleſs they have already about 150, and from whom, as well as from ſeveral Ladies of Quality and Diſtinction, they have received very generous and beneficent Contributions.

The Hoſpital is now fitted up and made much more compleat than could have been expected out of a Dwelling Houſe: It will at preſent contain 60 Patients; but as the Boundaries of their Ground will admit of new Buildings for ſeveral ſpacious and airy Wards, large enough to lodge ſome Hundreds of Patients better and more commodiouſly than any other Hoſpital about this Town; they propoſe to erect ſuch Buildings as ſoon as their Circumſtances ſhall enable them.

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They began to receive Patients on *New Years* Day laſt, and ſeveral In and Out Patient were then received, and they continue ſo to do every *Wedneſday* Morning until Ten o the Clock: They will admit as many In Patients as their Houſe will contain, and Out Patients according to their Ability.

They have in their Houſe an Apothecary, and a compleat Shop; and all the Phyſicians Surgeons, Apothecaries, Chimiſts and Druggiſts, are a Committee to buy the Drugs and other Materials, for making the Medicines there; under whoſe Inſpection all the Medicines are made: And the following Apothecaries, *viz. John Warren*, and *Daniel Graham*, Eſqs. Apothecaries to His Majeſty, *John Allen*, Eſq; Apothecary to His Majeſty's Houſhold, Mr. *Iſaac Rand*, Botany Profeſſor of *Chelſea-College*, Mr. *John Clark*, Mr. *Andrew Mitchel*, Mr. *Thomas Graham*, and Mr. *James Fraſer* attend by Rotation as Viſitors, to ſee them duly diſpenſed according to the Preſcriptions of the Phyſicians.

Among other Regulations, the following one is proper to be here inſerted, which is, That no Perſon belonging to this Hoſpital preſumes, upon Pain of Expulſion, to take any In, or Out-Patient, any Fee, Reward, or Gratification whatever, directly or indirectly, for any Services received from this Hoſpital, either while they are under the Care of the Houſe, or after they ſhall be diſcharg'd.

Dr. *Stuart*, Dr. *Waſey*, Dr. *Broxholme*, Dr. *Burton*, and Dr. *Roſs*, who are all Governours, have conſented to be the acting Phyſicians there, without Fee or Reward; the Patients are viſited by them 3 Times a Week, they all meet there every *Saturday* together, and they attend by Rotation every *Wedneſday* Morning at 9 to examine the Patients that are recommended.

Mr. Serjeants *Dickins* and *Amyand*, and Mr. *Cheſelden*, have conſented to be principal Surgeons, and Mr. *Wilkie* and Mr. *Middleton* are the Surgeons in Ordianary: Theſe Gentlemen are alſo Governours, and ſerve without Fee or Reward.

Several eminent Divines have agreed to attend the Patients daily, for their Spiritual Comfort and Inſtruction; and two of the Governours are Weekly appointed, who attend every Day as Viſitors to hear Complaints, and to ſee the Orders of the Board punctually obeyed.

As the Buſineſs of this Hoſpital hath been too much for the Governours to manage in a Body, they have appointed ſeveral Committees, who all Act with that Zeal, Integrity, and Application as become Men who have only in View the Honour and Service of Almighty God, the publick Happineſs and Proſperity of their Country, and the Support and Relief of their fellow Creatures in Diſtreſs.

N. B. *The great Numbers of Objects that daily offer, are ſufficient to ſhew the Uſefulneſs and Neceſſity of Hoſpitals of this Kind*: *And tho'* Guy's *Hoſpital, a noble Endowment, hath been lately erected, yet more are ſtill viſibly wanted*: *And 'tis hoped the Example of theſe Gentlemen may be a Means to induce other well-diſpoſed Perſons to make this Kind of Charity more diffuſive, and extend it to other Parts of the Kingdom.*

P. S. As the Phyſicians attend every *Wedneſday* Morning punctually at Nine, the Contributors to this Charity are deſired to direct the Patients to be there at that Hour, the Board having made an Order that none ſhall be received after Ten.

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